

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (new) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

- a) a first spark gap;
- b) a first pre-trigger system electrically connected to the first spark gap in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein;
- c) a control device electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system in such a manner as to activate it;
- d) at least one second spark gap connected in parallel with the first spark gap; and,
- e) a second pre-trigger system electrically connected to the second spark gap and connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system, in such a manner that the control device activates the first and second pre-trigger systems simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps simultaneously,

wherein each pre-trigger system is an electronic system comprising a trigger electrode and a transformer having a primary winding, and

wherein the primary windings of the transformers corresponding respectively to the first and second pre-trigger systems are connected in parallel.

17. (new) The device of claim 16, wherein the control device has at least one output, the primary windings of the transformers being electrically connected to the at least one output of the control device.

18. (new) The device of claim 16, wherein the control device is sensitive to voltage.

19. (new) The device of claim 18, wherein the control device comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a fuse, a varistor, and a spark gap.

20. (new) The device of claim 16, wherein the transformer corresponding to each pre-trigger system has a secondary winding, each trigger electrode being electrically connected to the secondary winding of the transformer of the corresponding pre-trigger system.

21. (new) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

- a) a first spark gap;
- b) a first pre-trigger system electrically connected to the first spark gap in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein;
- c) a control device electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system in such a manner as to activate it;
- d) at least one second spark gap connected in parallel with the first spark gap; and
- e) a second pre-trigger system electrically connected to the second spark gap and connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system, in such a manner that the control device activates the first and second pre-trigger systems simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps simultaneously,

wherein each pre-trigger system is an electronic system comprising a trigger electrode together with a transformer having a primary winding, the primary windings of the transformers being electrically connected to at least one output of the control device.

22. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the primary winding of each transformer is electrically connected to a capacitor that is charged under the control of the control device.

23. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the control device is sensitive to voltage.

24. (new) The device of claim 23, wherein the control device comprises fuses, varistors, and spark gaps.

25. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the transformer corresponding to each pre-trigger system has a secondary winding, each trigger electrode being electrically connected to the secondary winding of the transformer of the corresponding pre-trigger system.

26. (new) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

- a) a first spark gap;
- b) a first pre-trigger system electrically connected to the first spark gap in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein;
- c) a control device electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system in such a manner as to activate it;
- d) at least one second spark gap connected in parallel with the first spark gap; and,
- e) a second pre-trigger system electrically connected to the second spark gap and connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system, in such a manner that the control device activates the first and second pre-trigger systems simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps simultaneously,

wherein each pre-trigger system is formed by a system comprising a trigger electrode together with a secondary winding of a transformer, and

wherein each transformer has a primary winding which is electrically connected to a capacitor that is charged under the control of the control device.

27. (new) The device of claim 26, further comprising a third spark gap connected in parallel with the capacitor such that when the voltage across the terminals of the capacitor reaches the trigger threshold value for said third spark gap, the capacitor is short-circuited, which then discharges through the primary winding of the transformer.

28. (new) The device of claim 27, comprising first and second capacitors connected in parallel with the third spark gap, and each of the first and second capacitors being electrically connected to the primary winding of a respective one of the transformers.

29. (new) The device of claim 26, wherein the control device is sensitive to voltage and comprises fuses, varistors and spark gaps.

30. (new) The device of claim 26 wherein each trigger electrode is electrically connected to the secondary winding of a respective one of the transformers.

31. (new) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

- a) a first spark gap;
- b) a first pre-trigger system electrically connected to the first spark gap in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein;
- c) a control device electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system in such a manner as to activate it, the control device being sensitive to voltage;
- d) at least one second spark gap connected in parallel with the first spark gap; and,
- e) a second pre-trigger system electrically connected to the second spark gap and connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system, in such a manner that the control device activates the first and second pre-trigger systems simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps simultaneously.

32. (new) The device of claim 31, comprising fuses, varistors, and spark gaps.

33. (new) A surge protector device of the spark gap lightning arrestor kind, the device comprising:

- a) a first spark gap;
- b) a first pre-trigger system electrically connected to the first spark gap in such a manner as to enable an arc to be struck therein;
- c) a control device electrically connected to the first pre-trigger system in such a manner as to activate it;
- d) at least one second spark gap connected in parallel with the first spark gap; and,
- e) a second pre-trigger system electrically connected to the second spark gap and connected in parallel with the first pre-trigger system, in such a manner that the control device

activates the first and second pre-trigger systems simultaneously so as to trigger the first and second spark gaps simultaneously,

wherein each pre-trigger system is formed by a trigger electrode, the trigger electrode being electrically connected to a secondary winding of an associated transformer which associated transformer has a primary winding, the primary windings of the transformers being connected in parallel.

34. (new) The device of claim 33, wherein the control device is sensitive to voltage.

35. (new) The device of claim 34, wherein the control device comprises fuses, varistors, and spark gaps.